

By the Quene,

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Whereas the Quenes Maiestie vpon the earnest intention that her alwayes had and yet hath, to maintaine the good and auncient amitie betwixte her Maiestie and the kyng of Spayne her good brother, theyr countreys and subiectes, did by her proclamation in September last past, straghtly commaunde al her Subiectes, trading the Seas eyther for fshyng or marchaundize, to vse their accustomed maner without any trouble of the sayd kyng of Spaynes Subiectes, & also in cases nedefull, to defend them agaynst the french, wherof dyd folowe specially during the time of the herring fshing, greate quietnes and singuler commoditie to the Subiectes of the sayd kyng, specially to them of the low countreys, as her Maiestie hath ben certaynly enfourmed, and is therof glad. Yet liethens that time, sundry of the said kynges subiectes for priuate lucre, abusing her Maiesties good intention notified in the sayde proclamation, haue sought to colour the goodes and marchaundise of the french, beyng her Maiesties enemies, both comming out, and passing into fraunce, as apparantly hath ben proued in sundry causes duely examined and tryed, and remayning to be shewed. In respecte wherof, certayne of her Maiesties subiectes, which according to their duties be armed vpon the Seas, to offend the french being enemies, haue ben moze curious towarde some of the sayd kyng of Spaynes subiectes, in searchof of the sayd deceytes of coulouryng of the french goodes, and therupon of late, sundry complayntes haue ben made by certayne of the sayd kynges subiectes, that certayne Englyshe men of warre, beyng vpon the Seas, haue molested them, and in some parte spoyled them. Wherof her Maiestie hath vpon continuance of her former intention towarde the maintenaunce of good amitie with her sayde good brother the kyng of Spaine and his subiectes, appoynted specyall Commissioners of trust, to haue an extraordinary power and auctoritie, to heare, and spedely to determine and redresse all such complayntes, without delay of processe, and with moze celeritie then is administrad to any of her own naturall subiects. In which proceeding, although her Maiestie vnderstandeth, that her sayde good brothers subiectes receaue much satisfaction: yet for that the number of her subiectes and shippes of warre, that are presently vpon the Seas, & are likely to go to the Seas this spryng, to the offence of the french, are so great and many, and of so diuers porte Townes and Countreys, as it appeareth very harde, howe a good accompt may be made of euerye of them beyng so manye, specially consideringe the dayly coulouryng of the french wares by the sayd kynges Subiectes encrease the manifestlye.

Wherefore her Maiestie still persisting in her former sauour towarde her sayde good brothers subiectes, and to withstande all disorders against her other frendes, hath for some moze surety towarde them, thought meete by aduise of her counsaile, to prouide as foloweth, which is as much as can be deuised. First, her Maiestie straghtly chargeth and commaundeth all maner her subiectes, that shall perceaue eyther on the Seas, or in any Port, Haue, or Creke of this Realme, or in the Realm of Ireland, any person that may be suspected by any lyhely meane, to haue hurt or endamaged any subiect of the king of Spayne, or that shall haue any gooddes or marchaundise, that shall seme to haue ben taken from any of the sayd kynges subiects, during these warres with fraunce, that they and euery of them, shall employ themselves to the best of their power, to appzehend or cause to be appzehended the persons, so suspected to haue offended: for the which their doynges, they shall haue conuenient reward. And if any shipp shall come into any Port, wherof there shall be any suspition, that the owners or occupiers thereof haue damaged any of the sayd kynges subiectes: the Wisseadmirall of that coast, or the Maior, or other head officer there, in the absence of the Wisseadmirall, shall cause the sayd vessell, and the persons therein suspected, to be stayed, vpon payne if they shall be therein negligent, to be punished, as abettours to the offendours, and therof and of the proses or causes of suspition, shall immediately geue knowledge, to the Commissioners appoynted for those causes of depredations, that immediat order be taken for tryall of the facts, according to the tenour of their commission.

Furthermoze her Maiestie, willet and commaundeth, that no shippe or vessell armed for the warre, that shall

come into any Port or Creeke of this Realme, after the publication hereof, shall be suffered to depart or retorne to the Seas, untill the owner, captayne, maister, or such persons as have to commaunde the sayd Shippe or bessel, shall geue good assurance by sufficient sureties to the wileadmirall of the coast, or if he shall not be redely found, then to the principall officer of the Port, where the Ship or bessel shall be, or otherwyse as the court of chadmiraltie shall prescribe, and thynke meete in those cases, that they shall be answerable in course of Justice, to satisfie such complayntes and informations, as be, or shall be exhibited agaynst them, for spoyling and offendyng the subiectes of the sayde King of Spayne, or of any other nation beyng in amitie with her Maiestie. And if the parties can not, or wil not geue such assurance: then the Shippes shall not be suffered to depart to the Seas, but knowledge shall be given therof to the foresayde Commissioners. And if the parties refusyng to geue assurance of sufficient sureties, shall seme to be suspected that they have not behaved them selues well towarde her Maiesties frendes, they shall also be stayed, untill the foresayde Commissioners shall determine therof.

And because of late some complayntes have ben made by certayne Scottyshe men in generalitie, agaynst some Englyshe men of warre, for cruell byng of them vpon the Seas, wherein particuler orders are already geuen for tryall and redesse of the same: Her Maiestie willeth, that such care be had of the well byng of the subiectes of her good syster the Quene of Scottes, as the great amitie betwixt theyr two Maiesties, and theyr countreys and people, doth necessarily requyre, for that her Maiestie woulde haue nothyng omitted on her parte, that myght conserue, and encrease the same.

Given at her Maiesties Castle of Wyndso: the. xviij. day of February, in the sixth yere of her highnes raigne.
1564.

God saue the Quene.

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Con privilegio Regie Maestatis.